

COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES



Within thirty years of the voyages of Columbus, the Spaniards were in the New World searching for gold and treasure for themselves and for their king. Many of them were cruel and ruthless in all their dealings with the people whose lands they seized. The Indians did not understand the greed of the Spaniards. At first, they gave them freely the things asked. The more they gave, the more greedy and cruel the Spaniards became.

Finally the Indians, their leaders dead, decided to hide away the gold where the Spaniards would never find it. In Peru, the Spaniards had heard of life-size statues of pure gold, of temples with walls covered with gold and silver plates, of a great chain of enormous golden links. When the Indians refused to bring these treasures to them, they started out to search for them - - and searched for three hundred years!

In Peru, people are searching still. Now and then, in a cave or buried in the earth someone finds a vase, a mask, or a plate of gold. Often it is encrusted with great green emeralds. All the centuries-old visions of riches return.

Were the stories of hidden gold true? Did the statues of pure gold exist? Where is the golden chain? Would you like to go on a treasure hunt and see?

1. This selection is about:
 - (a) the voyages of the Spanish
 - (b) the greedy Indians
 - (c) hidden treasure
 - (d) a golden mask
2. What were the Spaniards searching for?
 - (a) land
 - (b) prisoners
 - (c) gold and treasure
 - (d) slaves
3. What did the Indians do with their gold?
 - (a) hid it
 - (b) gave it all to the Spaniards
 - (c) divided it up between them
 - (d) spent it
4. Where did the Spaniards hear of life-size statues of pure gold?
 - (a) Chili
 - (b) the New World
 - (c) the Americas
 - (d) Peru
5. Why would the Spaniards search for 300 years?
 - (a) to find their dead leaders
 - (b) to find the lost treasures
 - (c) to find the sunken ships
 - (d) to find new lands
6. In this story ruthless means:
 - (a) gloomy
 - (b) merciless
 - (c) greedy
 - (d) rugged
7. The Spaniards believed these stories because they
 - (a) wanted them to be true
 - (b) believed old prophecies
 - (c) loved the kind that told them these things
 - (d) had fever and dreamed them
8. Why didn't the Indians understand the greed of the Spaniards?
 - (a) they were a non-selfish people
 - (b) they were so greedy themselves
 - (c) they had been taught love
 - (d) they were ignorant people